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Rotary Hears Birch Officer

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The John Birch Society is solely an educational organization and as such does not engage in politics, the Michigan coordinator of the controversial organization told members of the local Rotary Club Tuesday at their luncheon meeting in Shiloh's.

Speaking on the subject, "Principles and Beliefs of the John Birch Society," Edward Kelly of Fraser urged his audience to "study the Society, see its films, find out the truth for yourselves, and then make up your minds."

After reciting the nine principles of the organization, Fraser said that the society is not secret, except for its membership lists. He declared that the society merely "observes" and cited these observations: U.S. Cuban policy is bankrupt; speeches of military officers are censored; Soviet spy Soblen was allowed to flee the country; the UN has become a center for Soviet spy activity; and charged CIA "bungling."

He continued his talk with the statement that the "John Birch Society wants to fight against Godless Communism."

In answering questions following his talk, Kelly said that Robert Welch, founder of the society, made his charge that former President Eisenhower is a tool of the Communists in a 1954 manuscript and that this had no connection with the society itself. He rapped newspapers for what he alleged was distorted reporting of the racial rioting in connection with the Meredith march in Mississippi and declared that "recently, anything the John Birch Society favors, most newspapers are opposed to."

He concluded with the assertion that congress had no authority, under the constitution, to give President Kennedy the right to cut tariffs.

Frank Snyder served as program chairman.